

will be required to jump-start this effort. Moreover, a clear federal commitment will leverage private sector support from universities, schools, businesses, and communities across the U.S. This initiative will engage the American people directly in the conduct of the highest priority foreign policy.

Your legislation is the right bill at the right time. You have the gratitude and support of members of the exchange community throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. BRENNAN,
President.

INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION,
New York, NY April 2, 2002.

Hon. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, RICHARD G. LUGAR, and LINCOLN D. CHAFEE,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of the Institute of International Education, including our Trustees and volunteers across the country, please accept IIE's thanks and appreciation for the leadership you are showing by introducing the Cultural Bridges Act of 2002. Your initiative could not be more relevant and timely.

As always, the leadership of Congress in international educational exchange is critical. Now, in vulnerable areas of the world where peace, understanding and progress through education are vitally needed to insure that terrorism and intolerance are eliminated, your legislation addresses key areas where we can work to build shared values.

Exchanges of high school and college students, graduate students and young professionals, as well as others, who can help create the climate we need where progressive democratic developments flourish are sorely needed in Africa, the Near East, Central and South Asia, and Southeast Asia. The focus of your Cultural Bridges Act of 2002 on members of the Organization of Islamic Conference includes virtually every nation we need to reach if we are serious about making people to people diplomacy work for youth. As you know, the Institute has always regarded the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchanges Act of 1961 as one of the most important of all this nation's foreign policy documents. By directing the Department of State to establish new initiatives through the authority of the 1961 Act you will assure that the philanthropic and higher education sectors not only support your efforts but help you leverage government resources for important common purposes.

Please let me know if there is anything the Institute can do to assist you in this critically important endeavor at a time of great national need.

Sincerely yours,

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2002.

Hon. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, RICHARD LUGAR, and LINCOLN CHAFEE,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATORS KENNEDY, LUGAR, AND CHAFEE: On behalf of the Board and members of the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV), we thank you for your initiative in introducing the Cultural Bridges Act of 2002. NCIV members—nonprofit program agencies and 95 community organizations across the United States—organize professional programs, home visits, and cultural activities for participants in the State Department's International Visitor Program and other exchanges. More than 80,000 volun-

teers are involved in NCIV member activities each year, including WorldBoston, International Center of Indianapolis, and the World Affairs Council of Rhode Island.

NCIV members promote citizen diplomacy—the idea that the individual citizen has the right, even the responsibility, to help shape U.S. foreign relations “one handshake at a time” through exchanges. We are grateful for your leadership in introducing this legislation that will make more of these handshakes possible with participants from underserved areas of the world.

Sincerely,

ALAN KUMAMOTO,
Chair, Board of Directors.

SHERRY L. MUELLER,
President.

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2002.

Hon. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, RICHARD LUGAR, and LINCOLN CHAFEE,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATORS KENNEDY, LUGAR, AND CHAFEE: On behalf of Sister Cities International and the 700 U.S. cities joined in cooperative sister city partnerships with 1,500 international cities in 121 countries, I applaud your leadership in introducing the Cultural Bridges Act of 2002. The Cultural Bridges Act of 2002 will be a vital tool in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy and public diplomacy in response to new challenges facing the United States.

The need for increased international understanding and cooperation has never been more imperative than in the aftermath of September 11. International education and exchange programs are critical elements in advancing U.S. foreign policy and national security, as they build understanding and cooperation between Americans and future foreign leaders. Nearly 150 present and past foreign heads of state made their first visits to the United States on exchange programs. This powerful tool for building productive, positive relationships has served the United States extraordinarily well over the years, and has included visits from world leaders such as Anwar Sadat and Indira Gandhi, French Premier Lionel Jospin and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Perhaps most importantly, the Cultural Bridges Act boldly leads the way for the federal government to encourage sustainable, cooperative relationships between the United States and the Islamic world. In the fight against terrorism and efforts to improve our national security, there can be no doubt that fostering international exchanges will help diminish negative stereotypes and build an environment of mutual understanding and respect for differences. Furthermore, the Cultural Bridges Act will help foster citizen diplomacy initiatives that will promote the involvement of local citizens in international engagement. Now more than ever, the federal government must invest in capacity building at the community level to promote citizen diplomacy, particularly with regard to the Islamic world. As we know, resources allotted for these activities are drastically insufficient in the current climate, and we hope the introduction of the Cultural Bridges Act will move our nation in the right direction of enhanced cooperation.

Thank you for your leadership on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

TIM HONEY,
Executive Director.

WORLD LEARNING,

Washington, DC, April 1, 2002.

Hon. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, RICHARD LUGAR, and LINCOLN CHAFEE,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS KENNEDY, LUGAR, AND CHAFEE: Thank you for your leadership in introducing the Cultural Bridges Act of 2002. Enactment of this legislation will make possible increase opportunities to bring current and future leaders from the Islamic world to the United States and to send Americans to Muslim countries to teach and study.

Expanded opportunities for citizen exchange between the United States and the Islamic world will help to engender increased respect, understanding and trust between our peoples, building this mutual understanding will enhance our national security by broadening the range of productive interactions between the United States and Muslim countries.

Currently, student and other exchange flows with Muslim countries are lower than with regions of the world. The programs which the Cultural Bridges Act authorizes would provide for significant increases at this crucial time for our nation. Thank you again for your leadership in working to strengthen these important programs.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT CHASE,
Vice President.

WORLD STUDY GROUP,
San Francisco, CA, April 2, 2002.

Hon. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, RICHARD LUGAR, and LINCOLN CHAFEE,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATORS KENNEDY, LUGAR, AND CHAFEE: On behalf of the World Study Group, I write to thank you for your leadership in introducing the Cultural Bridges Act of 2002. The World Study Group and its affiliated J-1 visa programs are dedicated to increasing understanding and trust between people through international cultural exchange.

Building productive ties with Muslim world will require a sustained and serious commitment that reaches well beyond our current efforts. The exchanges authorized in your bill are the most cost-effective way to encourage the positive personal and institutional relationships that will enhance our long-term national security goals. Breaking down misunderstanding requires that our peoples know each other better.

Congressional leadership will be crucial to this endeavor. Student exchanges from the Muslim world are among the lowest of any region, and significant new resources will be required to jump start this effort. Moreover, a clear federal commitment will leverage private sector support and will immediately engage the American people directly in the conduct of this high priority foreign policy initiative.

Your legislation is the right bill at the right time. On behalf of AYUSA, AuPairCare, and Intrax Inc., we thank you. You have the gratitude and support of our staff and field representatives throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

JOHN WILHELM,
President.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3401. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3009, to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that Act, and for other purposes.